Hezhang Buyi language

Hezhang Buyi (Chinese: 赫章布依语) or **Shui** is an endangered, divergent Northern Tai language spoken in Hezhang County, Guizhou, China. It has a Kra substratum. Like other Kra languages (Gelao and Buyang), Maza, and Tujia, Hezhang Buyi displays circumfixal negation. Hezhang Buyi was only discovered in 2013.

Hezhang Buyi	
Native to	China
Region	Hezhang County, Guizhou
Native speakers	<10 (2013)[1]
Language family	Kra–Dai ▪ Tai ▪ Northern Tai ▪ **Hezhang Buyi**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	*None*

Classification

Andrew Hsiu (2017)[1] considers Hezhang Buyi to be an unknown Kra language that had become relexified by neighboring Northern Tai languages. Although its autonym is *pu1ʔ2ʑei1*, it is highly divergent from the other Buyi dialects of Guizhou (Hsiu 2017).[1] Hezhang Buyi has lost all final stop consonants. It shares lexical and phonological similarities with Buyi dialects spoken in Zhijin County and Shuicheng County of western Guizhou, as well as with Gelao and Lachi. The substrate language of Hezhang Buyi cannot be traced to any modern-day Kra language, but appears to share similarities with various Gelao and Lachi lects.[1]

Distribution

Hezhang Buyi is spoken in Dazhai 大寨, Fuchu township 辅处乡, Hezhang County 赫章县, Guizhou, and may also be spoken in (Hsiu 2017):[1]

- Yuguo village 雨果村, Weining County
- Zhuyuan 竹园, Kele Township 可乐乡, Hezhang County
- Tangbian 塘边, Zhuming Township 朱明乡, Hezhang County

References

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